



TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, November 5, 2012



A crowd at a campaign event for President Barack Obama in Concord, N.H., Nov. 4, 2012. President Obama and Mitt Romney entered the final 48 hours of campaigning on Sunday with electoral bravado about the certainty of winning mixed with urgent warnings for their most fervent supporters that the hard-fought race for the White House remains razor-close.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Candidates make final push as close race winds down

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON – President

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White House remains razor-close.

Continued on Page 2



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Candidates make final push as close race winds down

Continued from Front Page

The two rivals started their day with rallies in the two still-competitive states where presidential campaigns begin every four years, and where the fates of their political futures could be decided: Iowa and New Hampshire. Flanked by former President Bill Clinton in the shadow of the New Hampshire state capital building in Concord, Obama vowed to continue efforts to improve a recovering economy and expressed the confidence of an incumbent that voters across the competitive battleground states will give him the chance to try. But he also betrayed the nervousness of a first-term president whose hopes for a second term – and the opportunity to continue shaping his legacy – hinges on a half-dozen states that could go either way by the end of election day on Tuesday.

"I am not ready to give up the fight and I hope you aren't either, New Hampshire," Obama said before thousands of people, his voice already growing hoarse at the start of a long day of campaigning. "We have come too far to turn back now. We have come too far to let our hearts grow faint."

He concluded: "We will win New Hampshire. We will win this election. We will finish what we started. We will renew those bonds that do not break."

Romney spoke moments earlier with similar expressions of a certainty of success, telling about 4,400 supporters in Des Moines that the clock has nearly run out on the president's time in office. He promised to usher in a new era of economic hope for families

slightly – behind Obama in many of the states he must win to accumulate the 270 electoral votes he needs to become president.

"We thank you, we ask you to stay with it. All the way. All the way to our victory on Tuesday night," Romney said to the crowd, urging



Supporters cheer at a campaign rally for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney at The Square at Union Centre in West Chester, Ohio, over the weekend. Romney and President Obama entered the final 48 hours of campaigning on Sunday with electoral bravado about the certainty of winning mixed with urgent warnings for their most fervent supporters that the hard-fought race for the White House remains razor-close. (Josh Haner/The New York Times)

across the country who are struggling.

"Instead of building bridges, he's made the divide between our parties wider," Romney said. "Let me tell you why it is he's fallen so far short of what he's promised: it's because he cared more about a liberal agenda than he did about repairing the economy."

But like the man he wants to succeed, Romney is racing from swing state to swing state with the intensity of a candidate who recognizes that he is trailing – if only

them to work hard in the last hours of the campaign.

"It's possible that you may have some friends or maybe even family members who haven't made up their mind yet who to vote for."

Obama drew an estimated 14,000 people before the gleaming dome of New Hampshire's state capitol. It was a bright, chilly day that recalled any number of days that he and other hopefuls walked the streets of Concord in their quest for a victory in the first-in-the-nation primary. □

Florida:

Democrats sue to extend early voting

LIZETTE ALVAREZ

© 2012 New York Times

MIAMI – In a state where legal action often goes hand in hand with presidential elections, the Florida Democratic Party filed a federal lawsuit early Sunday to force the state government to extend early voting hours in South Florida.

The lawsuit followed a stream of complaints from voters who sometimes waited nearly seven hours to vote or who did not vote at all because they could not wait hours to do so.

Shortly after the lawsuit was filed, local election supervisors in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, where queues

sometimes snaked around buildings, said they would allow voters to request and cast absentee ballots Sunday. Voters in three other Florida counties also will be able to pick up and drop off absentee ballots. State election law permits election offices to receive absentee ballots through Tuesday so long as they are cast in person. But later Sunday, Miami-Dade's county election supervisor closed down the line for absentee ballots at its Doral office after two hours because too many people showed up. It was eventually re-opened and election officials said anyone in line by 5 p.m. would be able to drop off an absentee ballot. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Red Cross reaches wounded in embattled Syrian city Homs

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross has delivered aid to hundreds of civilians trapped for months in the Syrian city of Homs. The aid group says it reached the neighborhoods of Khalidiya and Hamidiya in the old city of Homs on Saturday after negotiations with the government and rebels. It said in a statement late Sunday that 34 foreign delegates and Syrian Arab Red Crescent officials were able to deliver medical aid to 100 wounded people. The Geneva-based group says it also delivered medicine, food and hygiene items to "hundreds of civilians (who) have been unable to leave Khalidiya and Hamidiya for at least four months" because of fighting. Homs has witnessed some of Syria's worst fighting since a popular uprising began in the country in March 2011. □

Rome: Stabbed U.S. student is recovering in hospital ICU

ROME (AP) — A U.S. student at an American university in Rome who was allegedly stabbed by his roommate 25 times after a night of Halloween partying remains hospitalized in an intensive care unit. San Giovanni hospital declined to give details Saturday about the condition of the victim, whom authorities have not named but said is around 20. The roommate, a fellow student at John Cabot University, is in police custody as they probe the attack early Thursday. Police have said the attack followed a night of alcohol and possible drug use. John Cabot's president, Franco Pavoncello, in a message on the university's web site, said press or social media "rumors" do not accurately reflect what happened, but offered no details. He urged prayers for the families of the victim and alleged assailant. □

Serbia's pro-West opposition leader Boris Tadic steps down

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia's former pro-Western president and the leader of the country's opposition, Boris Tadic, has stepped down from the helm of his Democratic party. Tadic's move at a meeting of the party's leadership on Sunday comes after he and his party lost general elections earlier this year to the nationalists, former allies of Serbia's late strongman Slobodan Milosevic. Tadic is likely to be replaced as the leader of the Democrats by Dragan Djilas, the current mayor of Belgrade, Serbia's capital. Tadic is to remain "honorary president" of the Democrats. During his eight-year presidency, Tadic has helped Serbia reconcile with its former wartime foes Croatia and Bosnia and led it closer to the European Union. □

1 killed, 18 injured in Kurdish rebel bomb attack in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's leader says Kurdish rebels have detonated a car bomb in southeast Turkey, killing an 11-year-old child and wounding 18 other people. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the explosion occurred Sunday as an armored police vehicle was traveling on a road in the town of Semdinli, near the border with Iraq. The bomb went off close to a wedding celebration. Erdogan blamed the attack on the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which is fighting for self-rule in Turkey's southeast and is active in Semdinli. The attack comes amid a surge in violence by the rebels in recent months. Hundreds of Kurdish inmates are on a hunger strike to demand increased rights for Kurds. Tens of thousands of people have been killed since the PKK took up arms in 1984. □



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Storm victims on alert as cold weather moves into region

Michael Schwartz

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NEW YORK – With many residents left homeless after the devastation from last week's storm, New York-area officials began focusing Sunday on another weather-related threat: colder weather moving into the region.

In New York, 30,000 to 40,000 people, mainly residents of public housing, will have to find new homes, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said at a news conference with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Sunday. "I don't know that anybody has ever taken this number of people and found housing for them overnight," the mayor said.

Many residents in New Jersey, on Long Island and in Connecticut face a similar problem. "This is going to be a massive, massive housing problem," Cuomo said.

Temperatures throughout the region fell early Sunday into the 30s, and the National Weather Service issued a freeze watch on Sunday for parts of New Jersey, including the coast, where many residents remained without

heat. Officials have urged them to head to shelters.

Bloomberg called the cold the "most pressing" challenge in the recovery. The city has opened heating shelters and is passing out blankets to New Yorkers. Forecasters say a northeaster could move in by midweek, hitting already battered coastal areas with heavy winds and strong waves.

Freezing temperatures are also expected.

As of Sunday, more than 700,000 remained without power in New York state, including 404,000 on Long Island and 154,000 in New York City.

Nearly a million customers in New Jersey and 70,000 in Connecticut were also still without power. But restoring electric service is only the first step. When the storm surge flooded homes along the coast, the ocean water destroyed boilers and hot-water heaters. Difficulties continued in delivering fuel. In New Jersey, Gov. Chris Christie has declared a fuel emergency and imposed gasoline rationing in 12 counties. Cuomo



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie speaks during a press conference alongside United States Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on Washington Street, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Hoboken, New Jersey. As much of the metropolitan area began to return to a state of normalcy in the days following Sandy, some neighborhoods remain without power as temperatures drop.

(AP Photo/ John Minchillo)

mo said that tankers and barges were on the way to help alleviate shortages. Yet there has been an outpouring of good will. On Staten Island, in the Rockaways and in other regions pummeled by Hur-

ricane Sandy, thousands of people, including runners in Manhattan who had expected to compete in the New York City Marathon, which was canceled late last week, have pitched in to haul away fallen trees

and distribute food and clothing.


"We're tough," Cuomo said Sunday. "We're also sweet and we're also kind and we're also giving, and you can see that all across the state this morning." □

NJ storm victims can vote by email or fax

© 2012 New York Times

New Jersey residents who have been displaced by Hurricane Sandy will be able to vote in Tuesday's election by email or fax, Gov. Chris Christie's administration announced on Saturday. The New Jersey Department of State has instructed county election officials to accept applications for mail-in ballots via email or fax until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and to provide mail-in ballots the same way. Voters will have until 8 p.m. on Tuesday – when polling places close – to submit their ballots via email or fax.

A list of election officials by county is available on the website for the New Jersey Department of State (www.nj.gov/state). The Christie administration also said that any voter displaced by the storm would be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in person on Tuesday in a county other than the one in which he or she is registered to vote. □




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Boy killed in fall, mauling at Pittsburgh zoo exhibit

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A young boy visiting the Pittsburgh zoo with his mother and friends was killed Sunday when he fell about 14 feet (4.3 meters) off a deck into an exhibit that's home to a pack of African painted dogs, who pounced on the boy and mauled him, zoo officials said.

It's not clear whether he died from the fall or the attack, said Barbara Baker, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

When the boy fell, other visitors immediately told staff members, who responded along with Pittsburgh police. Zookeepers called off the dogs, and seven of them immediately went to a back building. Three more eventually were drawn away from the boy, but the last dog wouldn't come into the building, and po-

lice had to shoot him, Baker said. "It's clear that the dogs did attack the child, but whether he died of the attack or the fall has yet to be determined," Baker said.

The dogs are about as big as medium-sized domestic dogs, 2 to 2½ feet (0.6 to

0.75 meters) high and 37 to 80 pounds (17 to 36 kilograms), according to the zoo. African wild dogs are also known as cape hunting dogs, spotted dogs, and painted wolves. They have large, rounded ears and dark brown circles

around their eyes and are considered endangered.

Police and the Allegheny County medical examiner's office were investigating. Baker said the zoo, which has never had a visitor death, plans an internal investigation, and no deci-

sion has been made yet on the future of the exhibit.

The dogs normally live in a 1.5-acre (0.6-hectare) exhibit called the Painted Dog Bush Camp that's part of a larger open area called the African Savanna, where elephants, lions and other animals can be seen.

In May, some of the dogs crawled under a fence and escaped into a part of the exhibit that's usually closed. The zoo was on lockdown for about an hour as a precaution. Ten African painted dogs were born at the zoo in 2009, and their mother died of a ruptured uterus shortly after delivering the litter. Five of the pups survived. The mortality rate for painted pups is 50 percent, even when born in the wild to a healthy mother.

It was only the second litter to be hand-raised in captivity, along with one in the United Kingdom, zoo officials said at the time. □



Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium President and CEO Barbara Baker holds a news conference on the death of a young boy who was killed when he fell about 14 feet off a deck into an exhibit that's home to a pack of African painted dogs, who pounced on the boy and mauled him, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Pittsburgh.

(AP Photo/Bob Donaldson)



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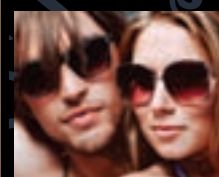
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Police helicopter crash kills 2 officers in Atlanta

GREG SCHREIER
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A low-flying police helicopter scanning a bustling neighborhood not far from downtown Atlanta for a runaway 9-year-old boy suddenly plummeted to the ground and exploded, killing both officers on board but leaving those on the ground unharmed. Federal authorities are investigating what caused the aircraft to descend into power lines, knocking out electricity to some residents nearby in the district filled with shopping plazas, fast food restaurants and homes. The boy was found safely a couple of hours af-

ter the helicopter crashed early Sunday morning. Atlanta police spokesman Officer John Chafee said Sunday that the boy ran away after being scolded by his mother and was later found wandering on a city street.

The two officers were identified Sunday afternoon as pilot Richard J. Halford, 48, of Lithia Springs, who had been with the department for 26 years, and Shawn A. Smiley, 40, of Lithonia, a tactical flight officer who joined the department two years ago.

Atlanta Police Chief George Turner praised the two officers as public servants who died honorably

in the search for the missing boy. Both men were fathers. Smiley had three children under the age of 10.

"Every day, they provided air support for our officers, assisting in major events and searches for suspects and missing persons," Turner said in a news release. "Their value to our citizens and our officers on the street is incalculable." The families have asked for privacy, and trust funds have been set up at Wells Fargo bank locations to help them, said Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos.

Their deaths shook not only the police force, but the entire city.

"It's sad. It's tragic ... for someone to lose their lives trying to find a kid, trying

to keep another family together," Rodney Christian, 22, told the AP as he and more than a dozen others looked at the scene in the early morning darkness Sunday.

The wreckage of the OH-6A helicopter had already been moved as investigators piece together what happened, said Eric M. Weiss, a spokesman with the National Transportation Safety Board.

Records with the Federal Aviation Administration showed the helicopter was a Hughes OH-6A manufactured in 1967. The Hughes has historically been a military workhorse.

Atlanta police referred questions about what caused the crash to federal investigators. □



Law enforcement personnel investigate the scene of an Atlanta Police Department helicopter crash early Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, that killed two officers aboard the aircraft when it crashed near a shopping center late Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012.

(AP Photo/David Tulis)

Hearing set for general charged with sex crimes

MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — The public is expected to get its first glimpse Monday at the evidence against a U.S. Army general facing court-martial on sex crimes charges, a rare criminal case against a high-ranking officer that has thus far been shrouded in secrecy.

An Article 32 hearing is scheduled at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for Brig. Gen. Jeffery A. Sinclair, who was sent home from Afghanistan and later charged Sept. 26 with a long list of crimes that include forcible sodomy, wrongful sexual conduct, violating orders, engaging

in inappropriate relationships, misusing a government travel charge card, and possessing pornography and alcohol while deployed. In an Article 32 hearing, an investigative officer hears evidence and recommends whether a case should proceed to a court-martial. But the Army has kept details confidential, refusing to identify the officer who will preside over the hearing and military lawyers assigned to defend Sinclair. The general was serving as deputy commander in charge of logistics and support for the 82nd Airborne Division before being abruptly relieved during his most recent combat tour. □

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Long-shot campaign could hurt Romney's chances

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

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POWHATAN, Va. — Virgil Goode has absolutely no chance of winning the presidency. But here in his home state, his quixotic quest for the White House as the Constitution Party candidate could peel votes away from Mitt Romney, and that is making some Republicans nervous.

"Why would you do this?" Susan Ferreri, a small-business owner, asked Goode recently when he dropped by an Italian restaurant in this Richmond suburb to hand out leaflets and rustle up votes. "I'm against Obama, and I will go with Romney, and I just really hope you don't upset it."

Goode, 66, a former congressman who is a staunch opponent of immigration and is a fiscal and social conservative, politely defended himself and moved on.

"I have heard that argument before," he said later in his distinctive Southern drawl.

Indeed he has. In many states, Republicans have worked to suppress Goode's candidacy. He is on the ballot in 26 states and is running as a write-in candidate in an additional 14. Republicans succeeded in blocking him in

Pennsylvania; Goode says that it would have cost him \$100,000 to fight to have his name included and that he did not have the money. But the efforts failed here in the swing state of Virginia, where President Barack

he is culturally so opposite from most voters in Southside Virginia that there is an area for Virgil Goode to win votes," said David Wasserman of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. "In 2008, there were close to



Virgil Goode, a former congressman, speaks to Linda and Al Chenault while campaigning at a restaurant in Powhatan, Va., Oct. 26, 2012. Goode's third-party run for president is making some Republicans nervous in a crucial battleground state that might harm Mitt Romney.

(Jay Paul/The New York Times)

Obama and Romney are running neck and neck in the battle for 13 electoral votes. In the latest Fox News poll in Virginia, Goode is backed by 1 percent of likely voters.

Silver-haired and lanky, Goode has roots as a country lawyer in the bucolic southwestern town of Rocky Mount, where he is a household name and has a base of regional support.

"The problem for Romney is

40,000 votes cast for third-party candidates in Virginia. What if Virgil Goode took 25,000 votes? That could be a potential difference maker."

The Romney campaign says it is not worried. "This election is a very clear choice between two candidates," said Rich Beeson, Romney's political director. "We are running a campaign that will ensure Mitt Romney wins regardless of who is in the

race."

But Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman from Virginia, is more cautious. "I don't think his candidacy is helpful," Davis said of Goode.

To say Goode is running his campaign on a shoestring would be an understatement. He does not take money from political action committees and refuses all donations over \$200. So far, he has spent about \$200,000 — including, he said, \$65,000 to \$70,000 of his own money.

He has been crisscrossing the country in a blue Honda Civic with 140,000 miles on it and a pile of blue and white "Goode for President" signs stuffed in the trunk. He keeps a shower caddy filled with toiletries on the floor near the front passenger seat. In the back seat, there is a box of Raisin Bran cereal — "In case I need breakfast," Goode said.

His sister answers the phones, and his wife, Lucy, keeps the books. He has a driver, a friend named Danny Turner. But there is no press secretary; Goode returns calls from reporters himself.

His platform is fairly simple. His jobs plan is to end all illegal immigration — and legal immigration, too, until the

American unemployment rate drops below 5 percent. He also favors ending automatic citizenship for children born in the United States to illegal immigrants and would not allow them to attend public schools.

He also says he would "end the stranglehold of super PACs on politics," drastically reduce regulation on businesses and balance the budget immediately, though he does not say how. He is against abortion and same-sex marriage. If elected, Goode says, he would serve only one term. Goode, who was elected to Congress in 1996 but lost his seat in 2008, began his career as a Democrat but infuriated the party by voting to impeach President Bill Clinton. Then he was an independent and later a Republican; in 2010, he joined the Constitution Party, which advocates a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

In 2006, he offended many of his colleagues — and constituents — by attacking Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., the first Muslim elected to Congress, for taking the oath of office with his hand on a Quran.

Goode's remarks helped in his losing his seat, said Wasserman of the Cook Political Report. □

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Voters wavering even in their political donations

NICHOLAS CONFESSORE
 © 2012 New York Times

For one tiny sliver of swing voters, it is not enough to be wrestling with whether to vote for President Barack Obama or Mitt Romney at a moment when nearly everyone else has long since decided. Their checkbooks, too, are wavering between the two candidates.

Meet the undecided donors. They are not lobbyists or other members of the political class — donors with a professional imperative to hedge their bets — but ordinary voters whose back-and-forth donations mirror the undulations of the swing electorate. “I’m all mixed up between being a conservative and a liberal,” said Kurt Schoeneman, a grape grower from Northern California. He had found himself seized by waves of enthusiasm, Schoeneman said — first

for one candidate and then for the other. “Some of these people, they just loathe Obama, and they’ll write something really nasty about him,” said Schoeneman, who has given checks to both candidates, most recently \$100 to Romney in June and \$100 to Obama in July. “And then something else will happen, and I’ll go give Romney some money.” Charles Y. Chen, a salesman in Virginia, gave Romney \$100 on the day of his convention speech in late August. But in September, Chen donated to Obama every few days, \$50 here, \$55 there. Then he switched again, giving Romney \$50. “I think the Republicans have better ideas on the economy and the Democrats have better ideas on social issues, immigration and social justice,” Chen said in an interview. “Just like anything, both

have something that they do great and something that they need to improve.” Lobbyists or contractors, the sort of Beltway tradesmen and -women who

need to ensure access no matter who wins, have always hedged their political giving. Chief executives of large companies face similar imperatives.

But some of the less prominent undecided donors said they had been strategically bipartisan for different reasons.

Alexandre Scherer, an insurance executive in New York, said he had made his contributions — \$250 to Obama in August, \$250 to Romney a day later — because he believed that both candidates’ reliance on corporate money had made it difficult for them to speak their real views on issues that are important to him, like financial regulation and Internet privacy.

“I thought to myself, maybe the best way to help is to give money to both candidates,” Scherer said. “I am not sure who I am going to vote for yet, but I want them to address the topics that are important to me.” □



Brian Schroeder, who said he supported Mitt Romney but also gave money to President Barack Obama out of fear, in Green Bay, Wis., Oct. 29, 2012. Some swing voters have donated to both candidates, multiple times, as they remain unable to make up their minds, or simply wish to hedge their bets. (Mike Roemer/The New York Times)

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TINKERBELL SECRET OF THE WINGS daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30	G	TINKERBELL SECRET OF THE WINGS daily: 4:15 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:30	G
ARGO daily: 6:30 late show: 11:45	SP R	ARGO daily: 5:15 6:45 late show: 11:45	SP R
SINISTER daily: 6:00 8:30 late show: 11:15	R	SINISTER daily: 9:30 late show: 11:45	R
SECRET OF THE WINGS 2D daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:30 2:45	G	SECRET OF THE WINGS 2D daily: 2:30 matinee: 5:15 7:45	G
ALEX CROSS daily: 7:00 9:15 matinee: 1:15	PG-13	ALEX CROSS daily: 7:45 10:00 late show: 12:00	PG-13
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 daily: 7:15 late show: 11:45	SP R	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 daily: 7:45 10:00 late show: 12:00	SP R
TAKEN 2 daily: 9:30 late show: 11:45	SP PG-13	TAKEN 2 daily: 10:00 late show: 12:00	SP PG-13
FRANKENWEENIE 2D matinee: 2:00	PG	ALLEEN MAAR NETTE MENSEN daily: 5:00 7:15	R
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2D daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	SP PG	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA daily: 2:15	SP PG

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Paper discloses new Cameron text messages

**DAVID STRINGER
Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — A British lawmaker called Sunday for the country's media ethics inquiry to publish all the text messages it has between Prime Minister David Cameron and Rebekah Brooks, the ex-chief executive of Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper division, who now faces charges over the country's tabloid phone hacking scandal. The Mail on Sunday newspaper printed two previously unseen messages the pair

had exchanged in 2009 on Sunday, prompting a call from opposition Labour Party lawmaker Chris Bryant for Judge Brian Leveson's ethics inquiry to disclose the texts. Some messages sent between Cameron and Brooks have already been studied by the national panel and released to the public, provoking embarrassment for the British leader. However, other texts — which the inquiry says were not rel-

evant to its work — have been kept private. Bryant claims the messages have been withheld only because they are "salacious and embarrassing."

Cameron, a school friend of Brooks' husband, traded text messages with the senior media figure at least once a week and offered her support after she stepped down in 2010 during the hacking scandal. The leader was also forced to acknowledge that he had occasionally gone horse riding with the couple, an image that appeared to reinforce claims by opponents that Cameron is part of a remote elite. In one new message disclosed by the Mail on Sunday, Cameron wrote to Brooks: "The horse CB (Charlie Brooks) put me on. Fast, unpredictable and hard to control but fun. DC."

Another message, written by Brooks to Cameron after his speech to his party's 2009 convention, read: "Brilliant speech. I cried twice. Will love 'working together'." In the speech, Cameron had referred to the death of his 6-year-old son Ivan, who suffered from cerebral palsy and a rare and severe epilepsy condition.

Bryant on Sunday urged Cameron to voluntarily release all messages he had traded with Brooks. "You can get over being embarrassed, what you can't get over is deliberately hiding things from the British public," the lawmaker told BBC television.

"We all recognize that that relationship between politicians as a group and newspapers and the media as a group had become too close," Universities Minister David Willetts, a member of Cameron's Conservative Party, said. □



British Prime Minister David Cameron following a UN High Level panel meeting at 10 Downing Street, in central London. A British lawmaker called Sunday for the country's media ethics inquiry to publish all the text messages it has between Prime Minister David Cameron and Rebekah Brooks, the ex-chief executive of Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper division, who now faces charges over the country's tabloid phone hacking scandal.

(AP Photo Leon Neal, Pool)



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Police officers detain a participant of a "Russian March" demonstration during the National Unity Day in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. The so-called nationalists' rally "Russian March" was not permitted by St. Petersburg's authorities. The holiday, marking the end of the foreign intervention in Russia in 1612, was created in 2005 to replace the traditional Nov. 7 celebration of the 1917 Bolshevik rise to power. But it has been seized upon by extreme nationalists.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

Russian Unity Day dominated by nationalists' Putin protests

**MAX SEDDON
Associated Press**

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of nationalists marched through Moscow on Sunday chanting slogans such as "Russia for the Russians" to protest President Vladimir Putin's government, which they accuse of lavishing privileges on migrants and minorities while ignoring ethnic Russians.

The anti-Kremlin tone of the nationalists, who once backed Putin, comes as the movement's leaders try to broaden their base in the wake of last winter's historic opposition protests against the Russian leader. Some nationalists are even denouncing violence and racism, moves many mainstream opposition activists view with suspicion.

Sunday's march took place on Unity Day, a national holiday established in 2005 to replace commemorations of the Bolshevik Revolution. It has become associated with the nationalist "Russian March," which has taken a stridently anti-Kremlin tone. More than 40 Russian Marches were held

throughout the country during the day.

Putin marked Unity Day by laying flowers at a monument in Red Square commemorating the expulsion of Polish-Lithuanian occupiers from the Kremlin 400 years ago in 1612. It was his first public appearance since speculation about his health rose sharply last week. Putin walked slowly but without assistance, and his condition was unclear. His spokesman has said he has pulled a muscle but has denied it occurred during a widely publicized September flight in a motorized hang-glider.

The protesters were strident in their criticism of the Russian leader. Putin is "scared of us. He feels his time is coming to an end, because the future belongs to us," Alexander Belov, leader of the nationalist group Russkie, told the marchers in Moscow.

The Levada Center, an independent Russian survey agency, says its studies indicate that nearly half of Russians resent government subsidies to the restive, mostly Muslim Caucasus republics and dislike migrants from both the Caucasus and the former Soviet Central Asian states. □

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Syria opposition conference exposes deep divisions



Burhan Ghalioun, leader of the opposition Syrian National Council (SNC), left, shakes hands with one of the attendees during the meeting of the General Assembly of the Syrian National Council in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. A plan to shake up Syria's widely criticized opposition leadership and forge a more representative team has won the backing of several key countries, the proposal's author said Sunday, even as other anti-regime groups pushed back against the idea. (AP Photo/Osama Faisal)

KARIN LAUB
Associated Press
DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Sharp disagreements arose Sunday on the first day of a Syrian opposition conference meant to forge a more cohesive leadership that the international community says is necessary before it will boost its support for those trying to overthrow President Bashar Assad. The main opposition group in exile, the Syrian National Council, balked at a U.S.-backed plan that would largely sideline it to make room in a new leadership council for fighters and activists inside Syria. However, with international pressure mounting, the SNC also suggested it is willing to negotiate a compromise that would give the SNC more influence in a new leadership team. The international community has long urged the SNC, widely seen as dysfunctional and out of touch, to

broaden its base and include a greater spectrum of Syrian society, especially those fighting inside the country. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was unusually harsh, suggesting the SNC's leadership days are over. Failure to reach a deal in Doha could further heighten tensions between Syria's political opposition and the international community. Opposition leaders feel abandoned by the U.S. and other foreign backers, saying they are not providing the money and weapons the rebels need to defeat Assad in a stalemated civil war. Washington and others say they can't step up aid unless the opposition stops bickering and establishes a more representative — and unified — leadership. The conflict erupted nearly 20 months ago as a peaceful uprising that escalated

into a civil war and has claimed more than 36,000 lives, according to a tally by activists. At the conference in Doha, the SNC will have to decide whether to accept a plan proposed by a prominent dissident, Riad Seif, to set up a new leadership

group of about 50 members. The SNC would get some 15 seats, meaning its influence would be diluted, while military commanders and local leaders in rebel-held areas would win wider representation. Seif said his plan has broad international backing and

portrayed it as a stepping stone to more robust foreign aid. SNC chief Abdelbaset Sieda dismissed Seif's optimism, saying he and others in the SNC no longer trust promises of international support that are linked to restructuring of the opposition. □



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China's Communists endorse politician Bo Xilai's expulsion

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's ruling Communist elite have endorsed the expulsion of former high-flying politician Bo Xilai and approved final preparations for the party's upcoming congress.

The closed-door meeting of the Central Committee that ended Sunday was the last before Communist Party leader Hu Jintao and others in his government begin to cede power to Vice President Xi Jinping and others at the congress, which opens Thursday.

The Central Committee said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency that it endorsed decisions to expel Bo and former Railways Minister Liu Zhijun from the Communist

Party. Bo is accused of a range of misdeeds including covering up his wife's murder of a British businessman. Liu faces corruption charges.

Xinhua said Hu presided over the meeting and delivered a work report. It said Xi introduced a report of the current five-year session and an amendment to the party charter, both of which will be discussed at the congress. It gave no details.

The leadership transition takes place as slowing economic growth is exacerbating public ill feelings over corruption, social injustice and policies that favor state-run companies and the elite over private enterprise and ordinary Chinese. Abroad, China's attempts

to build good relations with neighbors have been set back by territorial spats with Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam, and Beijing feels hemmed in by a U.S. push to divert more military resources to Asia.

The Central Committee applauded its performance over the past five years. "Faced with a complicated international environment and an arduous task of stable reform and development, the entire party under General Secretary Hu Jintao ... withstood the test of all types of difficulties and risks."

It said the economy had grown stably and rapidly, there had been major progress on reform and opening-up, and people's living conditions had improved remarkably. □



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), addresses the Seventh Plenary Session of the 17th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, China Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. The session was held from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4 in Beijing and presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. China's ruling Communist elite have endorsed the expulsion of former high-flying politician Bo Xilai and approved final preparations for the party's upcoming congress. (AP Photo/Xinhua, Li Xueren)

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Palestinian leader violates taboo on refugees

AMY TEIBEL
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian president has set off a strident debate by shattering a once-inviolable taboo, publicly suggesting his people would have to relinquish claims to ancestral homes in Israel. Mahmoud Abbas' comments on the refugee issue, made in an interview on Israeli TV over the weekend, triggered hot responses from Palestinians and Israelis alike.

In Israel, it suddenly put the long-sidelined issue of peace talks back in the Israeli public's consciousness ahead of parliamentary elections.

Palestinians have maintained for six decades that Arabs who either fled or were expelled from their homes during the fighting that followed Israel's 1948 creation, as well as all their descendants, all have the right to reclaim former properties in what is now Israel.

Israel says a mass return of these people, believed to number some 5 million, would spell the end of Israel as the Jewish state. Also, Israel rejects the concept of a legal "right of return."

In the interview, Abbas was

asked about his birthplace of Safed — now a town in northern Israel. He told the interviewer that while he would like to visit, he doesn't claim the right to live there.

"I am a refugee, but I am living in Ramallah (in the West Bank). I believe that the West Bank and Gaza is Palestine. And the other parts is Israel," Abbas said in English. "I want to see Safed. It is my right to see it, but not to live there," he said.

The comments were widely seen as an acknowledgment that return of all the

refugees would be impossible. While Palestinian officials privately acknowledge that, they have been reluctant to say so in public. His adviser, Nimr Hammad, said Abbas was being "realistic."

"He knows he can't bring back 5.5 million Palestinian refugees to Israel," Hammad said.

Some West Bank Palestinians were disappointed that their leader had made an overture to Israel without receiving any gestures in exchange.

"President Abbas is a failure," said Iyad Alotol, a

government employee in Ramallah. "He is ceding the right of return without getting anything from the Israelis. He is a man who makes concessions for free."

Abbas, an outspoken pro-

ponent of a diplomatic solution with Israel, has little to show for his efforts. He has seen his popularity steadily decline in the West Bank, and in 2007, he lost control of the Gaza Strip to the rival Islamic militant Hamas. □



Palestinians march during a protest against president Mahmoud Abbas in the Jabaliya Refugee Camp, northern Gaza Strip over the weekend. Gazans protested against Abbas' remarks at an Israeli television that suggested millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants would not be able to return to the places they fled, or were forced to flee, during the fighting surrounding Israel's creation in 1948.

(AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)

Suicide bomber kills anti-Taliban politician in northwest Pakistan

SALMAN MASOOD
© 2012 New York Times

ISLAMABAD — A prominent anti-Taliban politician in northwestern Pakistan was killed Saturday in a suicide bombing, underscoring the dangers faced by politicians who stand up to the insurgents.

Police officials said the bomber detonated explosives near a filling station while a vehicle carrying the politician, Fateh Khan, passed by in a town in the

Buner district, in the restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Two security guards working for Khan and three passers-by were also killed in the attack, seen as an act of retribution by the Taliban.

Ehsanullah Ehsan, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attack and warned of more assassinations. "Our mujahedeen killed him," he said in a telephone interview. "We carried out this noble

deed."

Khan had long been a member of the Awami National Party, a secular party that rules the province and opposes the Taliban insurgency.

About three years ago, Khan shifted political loyalties and joined forces with an opposition politician, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, a former interior minister. Khan also led an anti-Taliban militia in the province. □



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Egypt's Copts choose new pope for uncertain times

AYA BATRAWY

MAGGIE FICK

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's ancient Coptic Christian Church named a new pope on Sunday to spiritually guide the community through a time when many fear for their future with the rise of Islamists to power and deteriorating security after last year's uprising.

The death earlier this year of Pope Shenouda III, a familiar figure who led the church for 40 years, heightened the sense of insecurity felt by many Egyptian Christians. They will now look to Bishop Tawadros, who will be ordained Nov. 18 as Pope Tawadros II, to fill the void in leadership.

Tawadros, 60, was chosen in an elaborate Mass where a blindfolded boy drew the name of the next patriarch from a crystal chalice.

"The situation for us in Egypt is not stable," said 27 year-old Peter Nasser, a volunteer at the Mass. "We hope the incoming pope will make our problems known to the outside world," he added, voicing hopes that Tawadros will also raise the profile of Christians in this country.



Acting Coptic Pope Pachomios, left, displays the name of the new Pope Tawadros II, depicted in the large poster, background, during the papal election ceremony at the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. Egypt's ancient Coptic Christian church chose a new pope in an elaborate Sunday ceremony meant to invoke the will of God, in which a blindfolded boy drew the name of the next patriarch from a crystal chalice. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

Nasser accused the current government, led by President Mohammed Morsi of the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, of discriminating against minorities. He claimed the new leadership does not work in the interest of all Egyptians. But even under authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak, who ran Egypt for nearly three decades until he was ousted in February 2011, rights groups say police were lax in pursuing and punishing those who attacked Christians and few Copts were named to genuinely powerful posts in government.

Morsi, who was elected in Egypt's first free presidential race, has named a number of Christians as advisers and vowed to work closely with the community. But Christians are skeptical.

Morsi congratulated Tawadros and spoke of Egyptian "unity" and "brotherly love" between Copts and Muslims.

Copts, estimated at about 10 percent of the country's 83 million people, have long complained of discrimination by the Muslim majority state. Under both the old regime and the new

Islamist leadership, violent clashes with Muslims have occasionally broken out, often sparked by church construction, land disputes or Muslim-Christian love affairs.

The newfound political power of Islamists in Egypt, who control the presidency and won parliamentary elections, has left many Christians feeling deeply uncomfortable.

Copts have faced sporadic, violent attacks by Muslim extremists. That has been compounded by deterioration in security and law enforcement since the uprising.

In some cases, Coptic families or entire communities have had to flee their towns as a quick-fix solution to avoid more violence.

Yousef Sidhom, the editor of Egypt's main Coptic newspaper, said Copts are suffering from the increased lawlessness.

"There is great apprehension about what tomorrow holds for everyone," he said.

Another worry for Christians is that the new political powers are pressing for a stronger role for Islamic law in legislation. □

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over a bed of spaghetti, or the irresistible Ravioli alla Vodka with Lobster and Shrimp, brimming with homemade Ravioli filled with Caribbean lobster, jumbo shrimp and fresh mushrooms, sautéed with garlic and olive oil, flamed with vodka, blended with a delicate creamy tomato sauce. Sole Mar offers ample parking, and congenial, caring service, and kids will find dining at Sole Mare satisfying as they can choose

from an extensive kids' menu. Only the best of the best receive distinctions from Trip Advisor.com, and sole Mare's excellence in service, ambiance and cuisine has earned them their rightful place among the best! ☐



Exciting finish as Academy participants take on Barbados Under 17s:

The 2012 Digicel Academy comes to a close!

BARBADOS: After what has been an intense and rewarding week of training under coaches from the Chelsea FC Foundation, the 2012 Digicel Academy came to a close Saturday, November 3rd, in an exciting finish that saw the 32 aspiring young footballers take on the Barbados Under 17s team in a round robin tournament.

Three 30-minute matches saw the Academy participants split into two teams – each playing the Under 17s National side, as well as each other. Despite the Digicel Academy teams showing off some of the world-class skills they picked up during the week, the Barbados Under 17s



team won the round robin tournament on goal difference.

Following the round robin tournament, it was time for the prize-giving ceremony in which each of the 32 participants was rewarded with

a certificate and a medal from Digicel and Chelsea. On top of that, four special prizes were awarded to the individual Hot Shot winner, the Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player and finally to the player who dis-



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played the Best Sportsman-ship.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Chelsea International Development Officer and Academy Head Coach, David Monk, said; "Firstly, I want to congratulate each and every one of the Digicel Academy participants – as well as the eight coaches – for what has been an outstanding week of hard work and professionalism – you should be very proud of yourselves. For us, in the first of a three year partnership with Digicel, it has been a very successful week of coaching and we look forward to the great things to come in the development of youth football in the Caribbean and Central America over the next number of years."

Digicel Group Director of Marketing Operations, Kieran Foley, said; "I am thrilled to say that the 2012 Digicel Academy has been a huge success – delivering a week of world-class training to the 32 aspiring young Academy footballers. Not only is this a chance for these boys to kick start their professional footballing careers but also – and possibly

more importantly, this is an opportunity for the eight coaches to take what they have learned with the Chelsea FC Foundation coaches back to their own countries and in turn pass on that knowledge to the hundreds of young boys they coach. "This is just the beginning of this wonderful partnership and we are hugely excited about the possibilities to grow and develop it for the benefit of youth football across the region. Congratulations to all," continued Foley.

Since 2004, Digicel has been involved in a wide range of football initiatives designed to support the development of football in the Caribbean and Central America.

In addition to the Digicel Kick Start Clinics, Digicel sponsors 17 National Football Associations and Federations as well as the two main regional football qualification tournaments in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) region. Visit www.digicelfootball.com for more information. □

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A wonderful week in the sun for Laura and Josianne

'If wishes came true' is a wistful saying, implying that they most probably won't. In the case of Laura Huez, however, her wish did come true. Aged 13, she and her mom Josianne Pierre came to Aruba to spend a week in the sun, relaxing in the pool

of the Divi Resort and swimming with the dolphins in Curaçao.

The Make a Wish foundation in Brussels saw to it that Laura's wish came true: together with the foundation's Lydia de Gens and through the organizational skills of Peter

Balliçre, Laura's dream week became a reality. Thanking Divi Resorts for their hospitality, Laura and Josianne posed for a picture together with Marin Bijl and Alex Nieuwmeijer in the lobby of the fantastic resort. Lydia de Gens surprised the two with big boxes of Bel-



gian chocolates. Asked what Laura's fondest memories are of the past week,

she said: "Swimming with the baby dolphin; it was amazing." □



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Indianapolis Colts outside linebacker Robert Mathis celebrates a defensive stop against the Miami Dolphins during the first half of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. Associated Press

Colts follow Luck's lead past Miami

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Andrew Luck and Ryan Tannehill put on a memorable show for Chuck Pagano on Sunday. The rookie quarterbacks traded jab for jab, hook for hook and TD pass for TD pass. When the duel finally ended, it was Luck who had the records - and another win for his ailing coach. Luck threw for 433 yards and two TD passes, breaking Cam Newton's single-game passing record (422 yards) for a rookie as he led the Colts to a 23-20 victory over Miami. The matchup was everything people expected from the two first-round draft picks, who had gotten their teams off to surprising starts. And this one will go down as yet another memorable chapter in Indy's bitter-sweet season.

Continued on Page 20

Runnth Over



Johnson holds off Keselowski to win at Texas

Jimmie Johnson (48) celebrates with the checkered flag in victory lane following his win in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Fort Worth, Texas. Associated Press Page 19

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New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, left, drives on the Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young in the first quarter of the NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012.

The Associated Press

Knicks beat 76ers to open home-and-home series

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - Carmelo Anthony leaped into the second row trying to save a ball he'd batted away, the signature play in another sturdy defensive effort. On the other end, extra passes led to more wide-open shots and the Knicks made it look as easy as they did two nights earlier against the defending NBA champions.

Add it up, and New York is perfect after two games for the first time in 13 years.

Anthony scored 27 points, JR Smith had 20 and the Knicks beat the Philadelphia 76ers 100-84 on Sunday in the opener of home-and-home series.

"I think at the end of the day, we know what type of guys we have on this team, we know what's at stake and we want to win," Anthony said. "That's the only thing that's on our minds." Jason Kidd had 12 points and six assists, and Raymond Felton added 11 points for the Knicks (2-0), who followed their 19 3-pointers in a season-opening victory over Miami by making 11 Sunday. They have won their two games by a combined 36 points and are 2-0 for the first time since winning their first three games in the 1999-00 season. "I think when you share the basketball it becomes contagious, and guys, they feed into it," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said. "And the fact that we have so many guys that can make shots, you don't know who's going to get you on any given night."

Jrue Holiday had 27 points and seven assists for the 76ers (1-1), who will try for a split Monday at home. Thaddeus Young scored 16 points before fouling out and Evan Turner had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Both teams are missing

high-priced big men because of knee problems. But while center Andrew Bynum's absence could have a big effect on the 76ers, the Knicks have so far shown that they can perhaps space the floor better using a smaller lineup without forward Amare Stoudemire.

With Anthony moving up to the power forward position, Felton playing alongside Kidd in a two point-guard backcourt, and Smith and Steve Novak coming off the bench, the Knicks have had a solid offensive flow in their two games.

They scored 104 points against Miami on Friday while finishing one 3-point shy of their franchise record, and hurt the 76ers from inside and out.

"They're very tough to defend. They're playing really good defense," Philadelphia coach Doug Collins said. "It's a very difficult team to play because they can post or they can spread you and they really move the ball really well. They're playing very unselfish basketball."

Philadelphia held Denver to 37.5 percent shooting in an 84-75 victory in its season opener, but its defense wasn't nearly as effective in this one. The 76ers were a step slow in transition and in their rotations, giving up way too many open shots, and hurt themselves with 18 turnovers. □

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Yadimi La Bastida

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Johnson holds off Keselowski to win at Texas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer
FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) -- Jimmie Johnson regained the lead on the final restart, beating Brad Keselowski in an ending two-lap shoot-out to win Sunday at Texas and add to his NASCAR Sprint Cup points lead with two races left.

Johnson led 168 laps, but found himself chasing toward the end. The third restart in the late laps proved to be the charm for No. 48 Chevrolet.

During that restart on the 333rd of 334 laps, Johnson and Keselowski were side-by-side. Johnson charged hard on the outside, and cleared him on the backstretch. He held on for the final 1 1/2 laps to win from the pole for the second week in a row.

"It was an awesome race. It's a great way to do it when the gloves are off and it's bare-knuckle fighting," Johnson said. "I got a great restart and got by him. I knew we had the speed if I could just get by him."

Keselowski had taken only left-side tires - when everybody else took four tires - and went from fourth to first on another restart with 19 laps left. But there were two more restarts after that, including one when Johnson and Keselowski banged together hard after they got going, but Johnson won the one that counted most.

"Man, I thought I had it, but we kept getting all those yellows," Keselowski said. "I knew I wasn't going to be able to execute every restart, and Jimmie did a great job on that last one." Johnson increased the No. 48 Chevrolet's lead by five points to seven over Keselowski, a runner-up in his No. 2 Dodge at Texas by



Brad Keselowski (2) and Jimmie Johnson (48) compete down the front stretch on the final laps of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Fort Worth, Texas. Johnson won the race.
Associated Press

leading 75 laps after never before finishing better than 14th.

They go to Phoenix next week, where Johnson was fourth and Keselowski fifth in the second race of the season eight months ago. The season finale is at Homestead.

Kyle Busch, who led four times for 80 laps, finished third and Matt Kenseth was fourth.

It was Johnson's 60th career victory and second at Texas, where he was the runner-up in April.

It also was the 700th NASCAR Sprint Cup victory for Chevy.

Johnson's teammates Jeff Gordon and Kasey Kahne were involved in contact in the back of the field with Greg Biffle, setting up a restart with eight laps to go.

After Johnson charged high, and got a little loose, he came to the line side-by-

side with Keselowski.

On the next lap, they made hard contact but kept going forward. Johnson maintained a slight lead at the line, but Keselowski pulled ahead and was still in front for two laps before Mark Martin spun out on the front stretch, setting up the final green-white-checkered finish.

There were nine cautions for 49 laps, including that late flurry that changed the race. It sure didn't start that way, but then there were some yellow flags in bunches.

Keselowski had more than a 2-second lead over Johnson when there was a caution for debris with 59 laps left.

But Keselowski got in his pit box awkwardly, then had to back up to get around Danica Patrick's car in the stall ahead of him. Once Keselowski pulled out, he

ended up in a jam of cars and dropped eight spots to ninth for the restart.

Keselowski worked himself back up to fourth before the next stop, when he took two tires and went back in front.

After the April race at Texas ended with a track-record 234 consecutive green-flag laps, the first 100 laps Sunday were without a caution. That 334 laps was the equivalent of 501 miles, or a full Sprint Cup race at Texas. The first caution was caused by debris on the track, and there were two more cautions within a span of 20 laps after that.

During that first stop, Keselowski took only two tires and within two laps led his first lap to get a bonus point after passing Ryan Newman, who hadn't pitted. That was a short-lived lead before AJ Allmendinger spun out of control out of

Turn 4 into the infield.

Keselowski and Johnson re-started side-by-side and in the one green-flag lap that was completed before another caution, Johnson edged back in front.

It had been a smooth Sunday drive for Johnson before all those interruptions. Johnson charged ahead, and was quickly a few car lengths in front of the field. Within three laps after the first pit stop, he cycled back into the lead with Keselowski four spots and 5.3 seconds behind.

Following the second set of green-flag stops, Johnson and Keselowski were 1-2, but there was a nearly 4-second gap between them.

Tony Stewart finished fifth, followed by Clint Bowyer, who is now 36 points back in third place in the series standings. □

Panthers break 5-game skid, top Redskins 21-13

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) -- So much for Cam Newton vs. Robert Griffin III. For the ticked-off players in the visitor's locker room, it was more like the Carolina Panthers vs. Sonny Jurgensen, Sam Huff and Bobby Mitchell.

Newton and the Panthers broke a five-game losing streak Sunday, topping Griffin and the penalty-prone Washington Redskins 21-13, prompting coach Mike Shanahan to essentially throw in the towel on the season. Newton threw for 201 yards, ran for 37, played part of the game with a bloodied thumb and didn't look his usual disconsolate self when he sat with the familiar white towel on his head between drives.



Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy, left, hits Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III and is charged with a roughing the passer penalty during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Landover, Md.
Associated Press

But what really fired up Newton and his teammates was the fact that they had been deemed the "home-

coming" opponent by the Redskins, who wore 1937 throwback uniforms and welcomed back dozens of former stars. Carolina's DeAngelo Williams, whose 30-yard touchdown score was his longest run of the season, was so miffed that he raised the issue in a pregame speech and still had the "Game Day" program sitting in his locker after the game and said he might frame it.

"I look on there and it says 'homecoming.'

And I'm thinking to myself: This is the National Football League. Are you serious? Homecoming," Williams said. "And it's not like you tried to hide it - you blatantly put it on the front of the Game Day. And you're talking about somebody fired up today? I was (ticked).

"It was the whole team. That was definitely motivating. You don't say you're going to have a 'homecoming' in the National Football League. You do it in college. It's one of those teams that's just terrible. You don't book, like, a good team for homecoming." Williams rubbed it in with a series of tweets afterward, and Newton also brought up the issue without any prompting.

"I think it was their homecoming, which was kind of embarrassing for us to be

in," said Newton, whose 82-yard pass to Armanti Edwards was among the highlights of a 13-for-23 performance. "And that was a challenge. I think some of the guys took that and put it as a chip on their shoulder." Maybe the Panthers (2-6) need to find other novel sources of motivation. They entered the game with their season fading fast after four consecutive losses by a combined 12 points. There were questions about whether the team had any leaders and whether Newton had the makeup to assume such a role. Now, at least for a week, such questions get a hiatus. "It's a huge morale thing," said Steve Smith, whose 19-yard reception in the second quarter was his first touchdown catch of the season. "It's like the biggest morale thing you could ever have. Times are tough right now, and it's good to build on." The Redskins (3-6), meanwhile, didn't behave very nicely in front of the franchise's former stars as they lost their third straight. Already leading the NFL in penalties entering the game, Washington committed 13 infractions for 97 yards, including a pair of pass interferences and one roughing the passer.

Shanahan, 14-27 in his third season with the Redskins, now foresees another year out of the playoffs.

"You lose a game like that, now you're playing to see who obviously is going to be on your football team for years to come," Shanahan said. "I'll get a chance to evaluate players and see where we're at."

Griffin remains the Redskins' must-watch player. He completed 23 of 39 passes for 215 yards, ran 11 times for 53 yards and was sacked four times. But a tide-turning play came when he was stopped on a fourth-and-goal run at the 2, ending a drive that lasted 10:11 with no points and the Redskins trailing 7-3.

The Panthers responded by marching 98 yards, aided by personal foul and pass interference penalties. □

Colts

Continued from Page 17

Pagano, the Colts coach who had been watching the games on television since Sept. 26 after being diagnosed with a form of leukemia, walked into the coaches' box about 5 minutes before kickoff and after speaking to the team. Luck took the cue, throwing for 273 yards in the first half - the fourth highest first-half total in franchise history - and it didn't take much longer for the No. 1 overall draft pick to join Peyton Manning as the only players in league history with four 300-yard games in their rookie seasons.

Luck finished 30 of 48 and made big play after big play for the Colts (5-3), who have won three straight and are 4-1 at home. Tannehill was just as impressive despite not being 100 percent. He was questionable all week with left knee and thigh injuries, was limited in practice and wasn't picked as the starter until about 90 minutes before kickoff.

He wound up going 22 of 38 for 290 yards with one touchdown.

But it wasn't quite enough



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck looks to throw against the Miami Dolphins during the first half of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012.
Associated Press

to prevent Miami (4-4) from losing for the first time in four games.

The difference: Luck made bigger plays.

He continually escaped pressure, hooked up on long throws, converted third downs and made two uncanny TD passes - a 9-yard throw to Reggie Wayne, who made a beautiful toe-tap in the back of the end zone in the first quarter and a 36-yard scoring pass into double coverage that rookie T.Y. Hilton hauled in

with a terrific leaping catch to give Indy a 20-17 lead late in the third quarter.

Miami tied the score at 20 when Dan Carpenter made a 31-yard field goal with 13:12 to go, but Luck led the Colts on a 13-play, 69-yard drive to set up Adam Vinatieri for the decisive 43-yard field goal with 6:03 to go.

The Dolphins got the ball back two more times, but never got into scoring position and Luck ran out the clock. □

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Ferrer beats Janowicz to win Paris Masters

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — David Ferrer beat Polish qualifier Jerzy Janowicz 6-4, 6-3 to win the Paris Masters on Sunday, clinching the first Masters title of his career and a tour-leading seventh trophy of the season.

The fourth-seeded Spaniard lost his three previous Masters finals — twice to Rafael Nadal and once to Andy Murray — but this time he didn't have a Grand Slam winner in front of him and never looked in real danger, although he did lose his serve early in the second set.

"I feel the pressure more than him, because I played three times in a Masters final," Ferrer said. "He's a young player. It was the first final for him, without pressure."

Ferrer collapsed to the floor and held his head in his hands after securing victory on his first match point when Janowicz's two-handed backhand was wide. Ferrer's seven titles this season is one more than Roger Federer, who did not defend his title in Paris.

"I was very nervous because it was my chance to win a first Masters title but somehow I knew it was my turn," Ferrer said. "To me this is a dream to win here. If I won it's because I have a great team."

The 30-year-old Ferrer says he is in the best form of his career, but still thinks he is some way from matching the game's top players.

"Maybe I won more titles than Federer, but Federer won the important titles. Federer or (Novak) Djokovic or Andy Murray, not me," he said. "I will try to improve my game."

The 69th-ranked Janowicz

made an incredible run to the final, eliminating five top-20 ranked players in a row. But this time his mighty serve let him down.

"Again, I slept only four hours last night. I'm not a machine. I'm proud of myself," Janowicz said. "This has been an incredible week. I would like to thank my family, my fans here and all my supporters back home."

Janowicz, who had previously reached only one career quarterfinal, in Moscow last month, is projected to climb to 26th in the rankings.

He was playing in his first final and looking to become the first qualifier to win a Masters title since Albert Portas won in Hamburg 11 years ago. The last qualifier to reach the final in Paris was Radek Stepanek in 2004.

The last player to reach a Masters final on his debut was Harel Levy of Israel in 2000. He lost to Marat Safin in Toronto. Safin also beat Stepanek in the Paris final.

In the fourth game of the match, the entertaining Janowicz hit a booming serve of 242 kilometers per hour (150 mph) and drew cheers from the crowd at the Bercy arena when he followed up an extravagant drop shot with a spectacular volley winner.

"I think he has the game (to become) a top-10 player," Ferrer said.

Ferrer, who saved 10 break points in the first set in his semifinal against Michael Llodra, was briefly troubled in the ninth game when Janowicz forced the first break point of the match, but the Pole wasted it after hitting an unforced error into net.



Spain's David Ferrer reacts after winning the final of the Paris Tennis Masters tournament against Jerzy Janowicz of Poland, Sunday Nov. 4, 2012.
 Associated Press

In the next game, Janowicz saved one break point with an ace, before gifting Ferrer another chance with a double-fault. Ferrer converted it when Janowicz's loose forehand went long.

Janowicz started the second set brightly and broke Ferrer in the third game. The Spaniard's forehand was called in and Janowicz challenged it, drawing a huge roar when the big screen showed it landing out and prompting a beaming smile from the Pole, who has thrilled crowds all week with his cavalier style of play.

The advantage was shortlived as Ferrer broke back in the next game for 2-2, with Janowicz's errant forehand again to blame as he swiped the ball long. Ferrer saved two break points in the next game and then broke Janowicz again to take control of the match at 4-2. □

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Rising anti-stroke drug tied to risk of bleeding deaths

KATIE THOMAS

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Dr. Bryan A. Cotton, a trauma surgeon in Houston, had not heard much about the new anti-clotting drug Pradaxa other than the commercials he had seen during Sunday football games.

Then people using Pradaxa started showing up in his emergency room. One man in his 70s fell at home and arrived at the hospital alert and talking. But he rapidly declined.

"We pretty much threw the whole kitchen sink at him," recalled Cotton, who works at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. "But he still bled to death on the table." Unlike warfarin, an older drug, there is no antidote to reverse the blood-thinning effects of Pradaxa. "You feel helpless," Cotton said. The drug has contributed to the bleeding deaths of at least eight patients at the hospital. "And that's a very bad feeling for us."

Pradaxa has become a blockbuster drug in its two years on the market, bring-

ing in more than \$1 billion in sales for its maker, the privately held German drug maker Boehringer Ingelheim.

But Pradaxa has been linked to more than 500 deaths in the United States and a chorus of complaints

ficiently rigorous because it allowed a potentially dangerous drug to be sold without an option for reversing its effects.

Pradaxa is an example, some critics say, of what can happen when a drug that performs well in tightly

out one, patients in a large clinical trial died at roughly the same rate as those who were taking warfarin.

The Food and Drug Administration released a report Friday that found the drug did not show a higher risk of bleeding than for patients taking warfarin, and the report did not address the lack of an antidote for Pradaxa.

"The evolving spontaneous reporting patterns do not indicate a change in the favorable benefit-risk profile of Pradaxa, when used correctly according to the approved label," Boehringer Ingelheim said in a statement. In other words, the drug is still safe. But some reports have indicated that doctors are not sufficiently cautious when prescribing Pradaxa, giving the drug to older people or those with kidney problems even though there is evidence that the bleeding risks are higher in those groups. The company recommends testing patients' kidney function before prescribing Pradaxa and notes that the risk of bleeding increases

with age.

"The problem is that the people that prescribe this, as a general rule, are cardiologists and family practitioners," said Dr. Mark L. Mosley, director of the emergency room at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kan. "The people that see the harm are your ER docs and your trauma docs."

Critics say that at least until an antidote is found, better disclosure or more limited use of Pradaxa may be preferable. Patients' lawyers have begun turning their attention to the drug. More than 100 lawsuits have been filed in federal courts and lawyers say thousands more are expected.

When the FDA approved Pradaxa in October 2010, the drug was hailed as the first in a new category of replacements for warfarin, the nearly 60-year-old drug used to prevent strokes in people with a heart-rhythm disorder known as atrial fibrillation.

Sales of the drug took off. By the end of 2011, after just over a year on the market, 17 percent of patients with atrial fibrillation were being prescribed Pradaxa, compared with 44 percent for warfarin, according to a study released in September. About 725,000 patients in the United States have used the drug, according to the FDA. But almost as soon as doctors started prescribing Pradaxa, concerns surfaced about its safety. Pradaxa was identified as the primary suspect in 542 patient deaths reported to the FDA in 2011, and was linked to more reports of injury or death than any of the more than 800 drugs regularly monitored by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, a nonprofit based in Pennsylvania that monitors medicine safety. □



Dr. Bryan Cotton, a trauma surgeon at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where the anti-stroke drug Pradaxa has contributed to the bleeding deaths of at least eight patients, in Houston, Oct. 3, 2012. Pradaxa, which has only been on the market for two years, has been associated with hemorrhaging. (Michael Stravato/The New York Times)

has risen from doctors, victims' families and others in the medical community, who worry that the approval process was not suf-

controlled trials is released into the messy world of real-life medicine. Boehringer Ingelheim said it was working on developing an antidote but that even with-

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Google casts a big shadow on smaller web sites

By STEVE LOHR and CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

STARTING in February, Jeffrey G. Katz grew increasingly anxious as he watched the steady decline of online traffic to his company's comparison-shopping Web site, Nextag, from Google's search engine.

In a geeky fire drill, engineers and outside consultants at Nextag scrambled to see if the problem was its own fault. Maybe some inadvertent change had prompted Google's algorithm to demote Nextag when a person typed in shopping-related search terms like "kitchen table" or "lawn mower."

But no, the engineers determined. And traffic from Google's search engine continued to decline, by half.

Nextag's response? It doubled its spending on Google paid search advertising in the last five months.

The move was costly but necessary to retain shoppers, Mr. Katz says, because an estimated 60 percent of Nextag's traffic comes from Google, both from free search and paid search ads, which are ads that are related to search results and appear next to them. "We had to do it," says Mr. Katz, chief executive of Wize Commerce, owner of Nextag. "We're living in Google's world."

Regulators in the United States and Europe are conducting sweeping inquiries of Google, the dominant Internet search and advertising company. Google rose by technological innovation and business acumen; in the United States, it has 67 percent of the search market and collects 75 percent of search ad dollars. Being big is no crime, but if a powerful company uses market

muscle to stifle competition, that is an antitrust violation. So the government is focusing on life in Google's world for the sprawling economic ecosystem of Web sites that depend on their ranking in search results.

What is it like to live this way, in a giant's shadow? The experience of its inhabitants is nuanced and complex, a blend of admiration and fear.

The relationship between Google and Web sites, publishers and advertisers often seems lopsided, if not unfair. Yet Google has also provided and nurtured a landscape of opportunity. Its ecosystem generates \$80 billion a year in revenue for

and Google could settle.

Google has drawn the attention of antitrust officials as it has moved aggressively beyond its dominant product — search and search advertising — into fields like online commerce and local reviews.

The antitrust issue is whether Google uses its search engine to favor its offerings like Google Shopping and Google Plus Local over rivals.

For policy makers, Google is a tough call.

"What to do with an attractive monopolist, like Google, is a really challenging issue for antitrust," says Tim Wu, a professor at Columbia Law School and a former senior



1.8 million businesses, Web sites and nonprofit organizations in the United States alone, it estimates.

The government's scrutiny of Google is the most exhaustive investigation of a major corporation since the pursuit of Microsoft in the late 1990s.

The staff of the Federal Trade Commission has recommended preparing an antitrust suit against Google, according to people briefed on the inquiry, who spoke on the condition they not be identified. But the commissioners must vote to proceed. Even if they do, the government

adviser to the F.T.C. "The goal is to encourage them to stay in power by continuing to innovate instead of excluding competitors."

SPEAKING at a Google Zeitgeist conference in Arizona last month, Larry Page, the company's co-founder and chief executive, said he understood the government scrutiny of his company, given Google's size and reach. "There's very many decisions we make that really impact a lot of people," he acknowledged.

The main reason is that Google is continually adjusting its search algorithm — the smart software that



Jeffrey G. Katz, the chief executive of Wize Commerce, seen with employees. He says that about 60 percent of the traffic for the company's Nextag comparison-shopping site comes from Google.

Annie Triff for The New York Times

determines the relevance, ranking and presentation of search results, typically links to other Web sites.

Google says it makes the changes to improve its ser-

vice, and has long maintained that its algorithm weeds out low-quality sites and shows the most useful results, whether or not they link to Google products. □



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What if Wall St. wakes Wednesday without a winner?

Steve Rothwell

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- Any stock trader will tell you that if there's one thing investors hate, it's uncertainty.

Unfortunately, with President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney virtually tied in polls before the election Tuesday, uncertainty is one thing they are getting in spades.

"It's crazy close," says Kim Forrest, a senior equity analyst and vice president at Fort Pitt Capital, a financial management company in Pittsburgh. "It's so up in the air, it really could go either way. In the short term, the markets will be happy that it's over."

If it's over.

Wall Street could wake up on Wednesday without a winner. If the election comes down to a thin margin in a swing state — Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire, take your pick — the outcome could be delayed for days or weeks.

The closest presidential election in recent history was bad for stocks. The

Standard & Poor's 500 fell as much as 8 percent during the five weeks following the 2000 election, between George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore.

The election was Nov. 7.

percent.

The biggest drop for stocks came three days after the vote, when television networks retracted their call of New Mexico for Gore and labeled it too close to call.



People line up at a coffee truck in New York's financial district ahead of the opening bell for Wall Street. Wall Street could wake up on Wednesday without a winner. If the election comes down to a thin margin in a swing state — Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire, take your pick — the outcome could be delayed for days or weeks. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Gore didn't concede until Dec. 13, after the Supreme Court essentially stopped a recount of votes in Florida. During those five weeks, the Dow Jones industrial average also slid, as much as 5.2

The S&P fell 2.4 percent.

The S&P fell 1.9 percent on Nov. 22, when Bush asked the Supreme Court to take up the election — and Republican vice presidential nominee Dick Cheney

was hospitalized with chest pain.

It fell 2 percent on Nov. 30, when Democrats asked the Florida Supreme Court for a hand recount of 14,000 disputed ballots.

The S&P closed at 1,432 on the day of the election. It fell to 1,360, a drop of 5 percent, by Dec. 13, the day that Gore conceded defeat. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell from 10,952 to 10,794 over the same period.

This year, "investors would like to see, regardless of who wins or loses, a clean and quick outcome," says Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago, who lived in Florida in 2000. "Then we can move on to our other problems."

The most prominent of those other problems is the looming so-called fiscal cliff, a combination of higher taxes and government spending cuts that will take effect unless Congress acts by Jan. 1. Getting the election out of the way is the first step toward resolving the issue. For many in-

vestors, backing Obama or Romney matters less than knowing which direction the country will take.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index has fallen 3.5 percent since reaching its highest point in almost five years in September, in large part because companies lowered their revenue expectations for the rest of the year.

In the meantime, investors have tried to decide which industries would benefit from a victory for which candidate.

A Romney victory would favor financial stocks because investment taxes would be more "investor-friendly" than they would under an Obama administration, Ablin says. Financial stocks typically pay higher dividends than companies in other sectors such as technology, for example, where cash is invested for growth.

Obama has proposed raising the tax on capital gains to 20 percent from 15 percent for high-earners and leaving it at 15 percent for everyone else. □

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Post-storm construction hiring a net positive US economy

ALEX VEIGA

MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Business Writers

Hiring in the long-depressed U.S. construction industry will get a boost from the rebuilding that will follow Superstorm Sandy. Those jobs, in turn, could raise economic growth, analysts say. The modest lift to the economy is expected to come in the first months of 2013. Construction firms, contractors and local governments will hire to rebuild or renovate homes, buildings, roads and bridges that were damaged or destroyed.

"This is going to be a net positive, particularly in the mid-Atlantic," said Sophia Koropecyk, managing director of Moody's Economy.com.

Sandy inflicted up to \$50 billion in estimated losses from property damage, lost business and additional living costs. The damage was concentrated near the coastlines of New Jersey and New York.

Construction jobs are especially vital to the economy. Pay is higher than average: At \$25.86, average hourly pay tops the average of \$23.58 for all U.S. private-sector jobs — and is far above the averages for areas like retail (\$16.43) and leisure and hospitality, which includes restaurants and hotel jobs (\$13.35).

In addition, job growth in construction typically spurs hiring for other jobs, like architects, real estate agents and sellers of appliances, building materials and office equipment. The stocks of home-improvement retailers like Home Depot (up more than 3 percent) and Lowe's (up nearly 6 percent) surged last week

even as overall stock prices were flat.

Boats and cars destroyed by Sandy will have to be replaced, too, likely leading to some increased manufacturing.

Economists caution that the construction hiring may be only modest and will likely boost the economy only slightly. And the storm damage could slow growth a bit in the current October-December quarter. Facto-

ner thinks reconstruction will speed the economy by the same amount in both the first and second quarters of 2013. Last quarter, the economy grew at an estimated 2 percent annual rate.

Any help for construction could help invigorate the economy. Since the Great Recession ended nearly 3½ years ago, economic growth has been slowed by lost construction jobs and

cial ripple effect.

"Not only will it help construction directly, but also the building supply stores, wholesale trade," she said. "It's going to be helping the automotive industry by boosting demand for utility trucks and pickup trucks." The need for rebuilding is widespread in the areas hit by the storm.

Along New Jersey's 127-mile (204-kilometer) coastline, for example, Sandy wrecked thousands of homes, from multimillion-dollar houses to modest bungalows, along with boardwalks, roads and bridges.

"I have construction companies calling me — com-

panies from North Carolina that have moved up here and want to partner up with us," said James Jefferson, co-owner of Property Services Integrated, a contractor in Jersey City.

"We'll hire another manager, if not two managers, and another person in the office. We'll probably pick up a handful or six new carpenters."

Some contractors and construction firms could face a shortage of the skilled workers they need for rebuilding. Many lost jobs and left the industry after the housing meltdown all but froze demand for construction. Nearly 30 percent of the industry's jobs vanished. □



A sign attracts job-seekers during a job fair at the Marriott Hotel in Colonie, N.Y. Hiring in the long-depressed U.S. construction industry will get a boost from the rebuilding that will follow Superstorm Sandy. Construction jobs are especially vital to the economy: pay is higher than average: At \$25.86, average hourly pay tops the average of \$23.58 for all U.S. private-sector jobs — and is far above the averages for areas like retail (\$16.43) and leisure and hospitality, which includes restaurants and hotel jobs (\$13.35).

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

ries, oil refineries, restaurants and stores that were closed or disrupted will cut hours or jobs. Some consumers will earn and spend less as a result. And some construction projects that had been set to start will have to be canceled or put off.

In the current quarter, the storm will slow the economy's annual growth rate by a slight two-tenths of 1 percentage point, predicts Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo. But Vit-

ner thinks reconstruction will speed the economy by the same amount in both the first and second quarters of 2013.

Most of the rebuilding won't start right away, analysts noted. Insurance claims must first be settled. Government money will need to be allocated in some areas. And if the Northeast winter is severe, much work will have to be put off until spring.

Once construction firms step up hiring in the first few months of next year, Koropecyk foresees a benefi-

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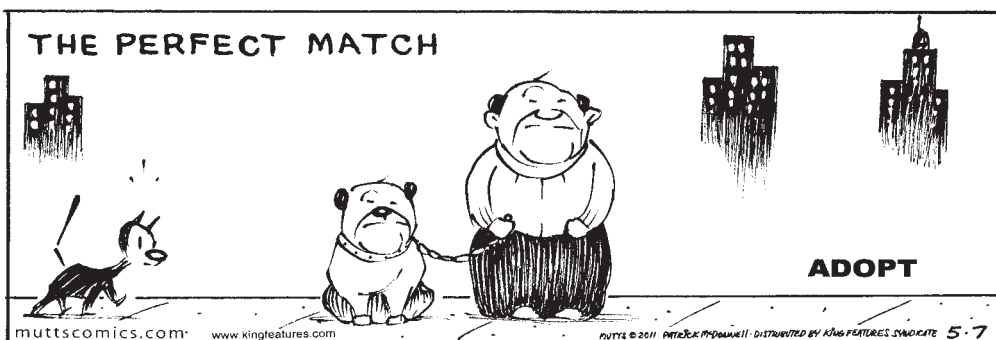
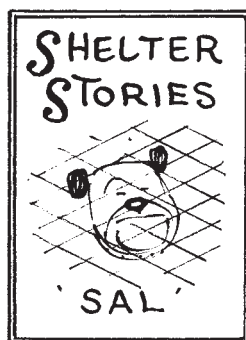
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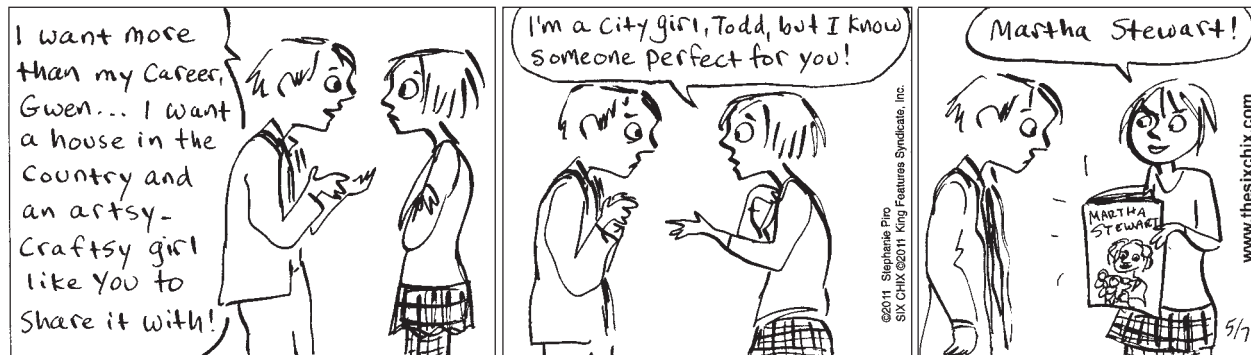
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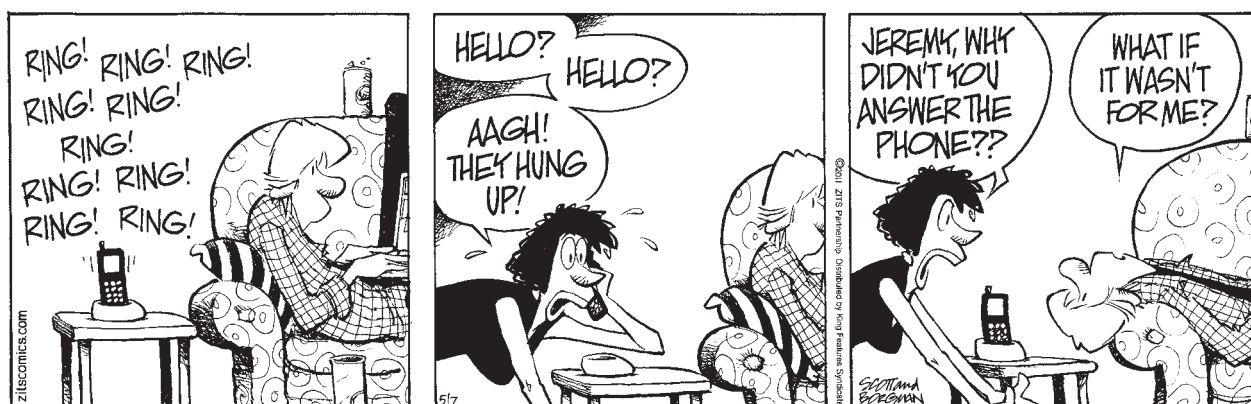
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3	8		9				7	2
			2	8				
1								4
	2							7
	9		4			6		
4						8		
9								3
			4	8				
7	3				5		1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	9	1	6	3	5	8	2	7
8	6	3	9	7	2	1	4	5
2	7	5	1	8	4	6	3	9
7	4	8	2	5	3	9	6	1
3	5	9	7	1	6	2	8	4
1	2	6	4	9	8	5	7	3
5	1	2	8	4	7	3	9	6
6	3	7	5	2	9	4	1	8
9	8	4	3	6	1	7	5	2

ACROSS

- Command to a sled dog
- Fear greatly
- Uttered
- A single time
- One of the Beatles
- Unit of land
- Actor Sandler
- Prayer when a meeting begins
- Prefix before fat or sense
- Like a leaky fountain pen
- "I ___ just fall off the turnip truck"
- Landing places
- Golf hole score
- Molds
- Kansas' capital
- Stories
- Send a Twitter message
- Adam __; 1980s singer
- Abbr. following many poems
- Young hog
- Actress Paquin
- Thee
- Sales pitch
- Buffalo
- Magazine editions
- Impressive displays
- Child
- Hee-haws
- Planet's path
- Horse's home
- Is able to
- Century 21's business
- Pocket bread
- Summon
- Pledges
- Tiny particle
- Finds a sum
- Rattled
- Sort; variety

DOWN

- Complain
- Take apart
- Shocking
- Skirt's edge

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
		23	24						25					
26	27							28				29	30	
31					32	33					34		35	
36					37					38				
39				40						41				
	42		43						44					
			45					46						
47	48	49					50					51	52	53
54					55	56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

5/7/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

GRUFF	DRAB	GALA
RUPEE	IOTA	ABED
IDOLS	DUET	ROAD
PENITENT	THRIVE	
NEAT	FLAILED	
FLIERS	DIETS	
AIR	SEERS	HOCUS
SEAM	DEITY	NASA
TUNIS	RESET	KEG
STALD	METERS	
STATUTE	SETH	
ERRANT	MINARETS	
COOK	IRON	NACHO
TOME	LUAU	USHER
SPAN	ANTS	SHONE

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5/7/11

- Drove too fast
- Perused
- Shiny on top
- Cave fliers
- Perched upon
- Appoint
- Old French coin
- Faucet
- Bit of butter

Roles shift from competitors to tourists

STEVE EDER

© 2012 New York Times

NEW YORK – For many, running in the New York City Marathon was supposed to be the fulfillment of a life-long goal. After long flights, months of rigorous training and thousands of dollars spent on travel and gear, it would all seem well worth it when they crossed the finish line on Sunday.

But instead, Hurricane Sandy washed away the race,

pointment.

"I didn't complete my purpose," Alexander Pazmino, 38, of Ecuador, said Saturday as he prepared to board a taxi. Pazmino spent about \$5,000 on the race weekend, and it would have been his first marathon. Instead, he said, "We will go run in the park."

Aside from running, some would-be marathoners said they would make time for shopping, maybe see a

Square.

"I'm enjoying New York," he said. "A lot of people around the world would love to be here. New York is the city of the world. I'm so happy to be here."

Figueiredo, who was entered in the handcycle division, vowed to come back for next year's race. It would have been his first marathon.

Some in the hotel lobby wore race bibs to show off their numbers, in case there is no next time, saying the numbers symbolized their determination to run. Others wore official race T-shirts, which could become collector's items.

A Japanese couple, Satoh Mitumasa, 68, and, Yoko Mitumasa, 64, had just arrived at the race expo at the Jacob K.

Javits Center to pick up their gear when the cancellation was announced, so they never got their race bibs, which they wanted "for the memory." Satoh Mitumasa joked that he especially liked his race number: 58888.

Jean Robert Durand, 50, of France, wore a running shirt signed by his friends, who had paid for part of his trip as a birthday gift.

Durand's 15-year-old daughter, Laurie, said he was determined to run a marathon while in the city, one way or another.

"He wants to do a race himself," she said. □



Anne Sisun, center, who traveled from France to run at the New York City Marathon, talks with other runners at Hotel Pennsylvania in New York, Nov. 3, 2012. For athletes like Sisun, the massive storm, Sandy, washed away the race, leaving the thousands who had descended upon New York from far away broken-hearted with time on their hands.

(Tina Fineberg/The New York Times)

leaving the thousands who had descended upon New York from far away broken-hearted with time on their hands.

"It was a dream to run this race," said Anne Sisun, 42, of Grenoble, France. "The dream is over now."

Early Saturday, the morning after the race was canceled, Sisun gathered in the lobby of the Hotel Pennsylvania in Midtown Manhattan with about 100 other French runners to go for a run on the streets.

They trekked to Central Park, where they ran along the dirt path of the scenic Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir before heading back to the hotel.

There, athletes from across the world – Japan, Brazil, Ecuador – were also deciding what to do next to make the best of their time in the city. Most understood the decision, and even agreed with it, although they wished it had come sooner, perhaps saving them money and travel, and cushioning the disap-

Broadway show, visit museums or explore the city. Others said they would volunteer to help hurricane victims.

Alexandre Figueiredo, 51, of Brazil, planned to visit the Apple store on Fifth Avenue to buy an iPhone 5 for his son and for himself. On Friday night, he visited Times

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JON GAMBRELL

IBADAN, Nigeria (AP) —

In Nigeria, a nation where dinner tables often see a pounded cassava product called eba eaten by hand with soups and dishes, the plant remains a vital food



To the uninitiated, the cassava looks more like a misshapen log or tree branch. The plants themselves are not indigenous to Africa, instead brought over from South America in the 1600s by the Portuguese. Those preparing it cut the skin off, then squeeze out the water within the root before frying it to make garri. Most Nige-

Cassava also can be ground into flour. In other parts of Africa, people consider the leaves of a cassava plant as a delicacy, eating it in a soup or frying it. Nigeria is the world's top cassava producer, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with Brazil and Thailand behind it. The plant thrives in this West African nation, often without needing too much help from farmers, which makes it valuable in a country where most still do agriculture by hand, rather than with machines.

With that in mind, scientists continue to study the plant at the institute, located on a preserve just north of the city of Ibadan. Its laboratories contain varieties of cassava growing in test tubes. Giant freezers there hold seeds dating back more than three decades, though most scientists work with cuttings of the cassava, as seeds can have different genetic attributes. There have been successes, adding vitamins and making some more drought-resistant. Scientists even bred a cassava plant whose inner tissue is yellow, a color favored by Nigerians who enjoy it with

Critics on social media and elsewhere flayed Jonathan, likening his cassava bread endorsement as Nigeria faced strikes and unrest to Marie Antoinette's out-of-touch musings about cake prior to the French Revolution. Jonathan's push for cassava flour could benefit the country, but it comes after a similar and failed attempt by former President Olusegun Obasanjo to do the same. □

Foxx, Wonder among stars honoring Eddie Murphy

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — How-
ever riotous the Eddie Mur-
phy stories from Arsenio
Hall, Tracy Morgan, Adam
Sandler and Russell Brand,
the highlight of Spike TV's
tribute to Murphy was the
comedian's duet with Ste-
vie Wonder.

Murphy joined the subject
of one of his most classic
impressions for a rousing
rendition of Wonder's 1973
hit "Higher Ground" dur-
ing the taping of the Spike
TV special "Eddie Murphy:
One Night Only," which is
set to air Nov. 14. The Roots
served as the house band.
Jamie Foxx, Tyler Perry, Mar-
tin Lawrence, Chris Rock
and Keenan Ivory Wayans
were also among those
paying tribute to Murphy on
Saturday at the Saban The-
ater.

Accompanied by a pretty
blonde, Murphy beamed
throughout the two-hour
program Saturday, saying

he was touched by the trib-
ute.

"I am a very, very bitter
man," he said with a beguil-
ing smile.

"I don't get touched easily,
and I am really touched."
Morgan called Murphy "my

comic hero" and came on-
stage wearing a replica of
Murphy's red leather suit
from his standup show "De-
lirious."

"He set the tone for the
whole industry a long time
ago," Morgan said before

Saturday's tribute.

"He inspired me in a fear-
less way."

Sandler said he was still in
high school when he first
saw "Delirious," which he
described as "one of the
most legendary standup
specials of all time."

"Everybody on the planet
wanted to be Eddie," he
said. "He funnier than us.
He's cooler than any of us."
Samuel L. Jackson said Mur-
phy "changed the course
of American film history"
by giving Jackson his first
speaking role on the big
screen, in 1988's "Coming
to America."

"If it weren't for Eddie, we
might not have all the won-
derful films that I've made,"
Jackson said.

"He is a true movie star,"
Jackson continued, laud-
ing Murphy's performance
in "48 Hours" and "Beverly
Hills Cop." "You became
an inspiration for all young
African-American actors."

The program featured clips

of Murphy's standup shows,
his films such as "Shrek" and
"The Nutty Professor" and
his work on "Saturday Night
Live."

Murphy insisted before the
tribute that he is retired.

"I'm just a retired old song
and dance man," he said,
adding that he only makes
rare appearances these
days. "That's what you do
when you're retired: You
come out every now and
then and talk about the old
days."

The 51-year-old entertain-
er took the stage at the
conclusion of the tribute to
say that he was moved by
the honor.

"This is really a touching
moving thing, and I really
appreciate it," he said.
"You know what it's like
when you have something
like this? You know when
they sing Happy Birthday to
you?"

It's like that for, like, two
hours... and I am Eddied
out." □



Eddie Murphy addresses the audience at the close of "Eddie Murphy: One Night Only," a celebration of Murphy's career at the Saban Theater on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

For a group or private tour, call 586 0347 - 593 6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com

Not wrecked by Sandy, 'Ralph' tops box office

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The weekend box office was not only undeterred by the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, it was buoyed by it. Disney's "Wreck-It Ralph" opened strongly with \$49.1 million and Robert Zemeckis' "Flight," starring Denzel Washington, soared to a \$25 million debut. Both opened above expectations, capitalizing on East Coast audiences looking for distraction amid the recovery from the storm.

"Wreck-It Ralph," a 3-D animated family film about a video game villain who tries to break free of his role, is the largest box-office opening ever for Walt Disney Animation, which has produced countless cartoon classics (though it doesn't include Disney's lucrative Pixar Animation). Though the hurricane had forced the closure of hundreds of movie theaters in the New York-New Jersey area, most were open for business by the weekend. As many as 100 theaters were still closed on Friday, but many of those were restored during the weekend. "We didn't really have a playbook for this," said Hollywood.com box office



This film image released by Disney shows Ralph, left, voiced by John C. Reilly in a scene from "Wreck-It Ralph."

analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But the numbers show that audiences across the country, and particularly in the Northeast, wanted to go to the movies and they did."

With many East Coast children out of school on Friday, Disney saw an uptick of business for Friday matinees to the well-reviewed "Wreck-It Ralph."

"'Wreck-It Ralph' became something of a distraction and an opportunity for families to do something separate of the storm," said Dave Hollis, Disney's head of distribution. "Schools being shut down on Friday also played a role as parents were looking for things to entertain the kids

and keep them out of the cold."

Paramount's "Flight," which had a smaller opening — 1,884 theaters, or about half the number of "Wreck-It Ralph" — might have been expected to be more harmed by Sandy, considering adult dramas generally depend heavily on the New York City market. But the film, which has earned critical raves and Oscar buzz, proved particularly enticing to moviegoers, many of whom were surely pulled in by the star power of Washington, who plays an airline pilot of both heroic skill and debilitating alcoholism.

"When you look up his filmography — it doesn't

matter whether it was yesterday or 20 years ago — Denzel opens movies," said Paramount distribution head Don Harris.

Harris said the studio counted only about 15 theaters lost to "Flight" due to power outages.

Aside from the draw of Washington, "Flight" is also the first live-action film in 12 years for Zemeckis. The director, whose films include the "Back to the Future" trilogy and "Cast Away," had spent the last decade on performance-capture animated films like "The Polar Express" and "A Christmas Carol." Harris called the return "spectacular" and said: "It's almost like: Where have you been?"

Ben Affleck's Iran hostage tale "Argo," in its fourth week of release, expanded to 2,774 theaters. The Warner Bros. film added \$10.2 million, bringing its cumulative gross to \$75.9 million — a healthy haul for a film expected to be in the thick of the Oscar hunt.

The Universal kung fu flick "The Man With the Iron Fists," directed by RZA of the hip hop group Wu-Tang Clan, opened with a debut of \$8.2 million.

Overseas, the James Bond film "Skyfall" continued to dominate. It took in \$156 million over the weekend bringing its international total to \$287 million. The film opens in North America on Friday.

The strong box-office weekend — up 21 percent from the same weekend last year — bodes well for Hollywood ahead of the arrival of "Skyfall" and the upcoming holiday movie season.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday. □

Dizzying array of media streams spotlight election

By David Bauder

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - The days of watching Election Night coverage on a single television set may soon be a quaint anachronism.

Americans have an array of alternatives for following returns on Tuesday night. Television news divisions are throwing everything they have into the story, and second-screen options are abounding.

People will be able to construct their own media experiences, seek out desired information instead of waiting for it, participate in conversations and hear analysis that reflects their own perspectives or none in particular.

Virtually all of the media organizations covering the election promise a huge amount of information

available online, from interactive maps that display state-by-state results to data from exit polls.

It's expected to be a big night for social media, and news organizations say they will monitor the conversations and have their own journalists actively participate.

Don't forget show biz: NBC is turning the Rockefeller Center skating rink into a giant map of the United States to be filled in with results. ABC will make Times Square into a virtual studio, displaying results and coverage on huge video screens and having Josh Elliott prowl around gathering reactions.

Here's a quick guide to the lineup: —Diane Sawyer and George Stephanopoulos are ABC's anchor team, handling the job on Elec-



President Barack Obama, left, speaks at a campaign event in the State Capitol Square, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Concord, N.H.; and Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, right, speaks during a campaign rally in Greenwood Village, Colo. in south Denver on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012.



Associated Press

tion Night for the first time. They have some big-name firepower: Barbara Walters is offering historical perspective and Katie Couric monitoring social media.

A separate live stream, anchored by Dan Harris, will be shown on ABC and partner Yahoo!'s web sites. Clearly anticipating a late night, ABC has scheduled a

special "Nightline" for 2:35 a.m. ET on Wednesday.

—NBC's Brian Williams is the sole returning anchor from past Election Nights among the top three networks. David Gregory and Savannah Guthrie will join him, with anchor emeritus Tom Brokaw talking about trends and history. Chuck Todd will fill the nuts-and-bolts-numbers role handled memorably by the late Tim Russert. NBC will live stream its coverage on various platforms, including Facebook.

—Scott Pelley of CBS News will also be anchoring his first Election Night broadcast, with Bob Schieffer, Norah O'Donnell and John Dickerson will join him. Byron Pitts is monitoring congressional races, and Anthony Mason analyzing exit poll data. □

Is Romney Unraveling?



CHARLES M. BLOW
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According to the latest polls, the most likely outcome of Tuesday's election is that Romney will lose. If he does, it will likely be a bitter pill to swallow. He would have come so close only to have fate and circumstances step in at the final hour and give President Barack Obama a boost.

How is Romney losing it? Let us count the ways:

1. The economy continues to improve. The argument for electing Romney hinges on a sour economy and his experience as a businessman with the expertise to turn it around. But, on measure after measure, the economy seems to be getting better.

A Commerce Department report released last month found that housing starts jumped 15 percent in September – the largest surge in four years.

The unemployment rate dropped below 8 percent in September and the October jobs report released on Friday was stronger than expected.

Furthermore, according to a Gallup report also released Friday:

"The U.S. Payroll to Population employment rate (P2P), as measured by Gallup, was 45.7 percent for the month of October, up from 45.1 percent in September, and reflecting the highest percentage of Americans with good jobs since Gallup began daily tracking of U.S. employment in 2010."

Romney needed gloom and doom on the economy, but Obama got some rays of sunlight.

2. Romney's momentum is maxing out. There was a moment after the first debate when it appeared as if he might have a legitimate shot at winning. He surged in the polls. His forlorn followers found their faith. There was hope for their candidate. Momentum begot momentum. But it peaked a couple of weeks ago, and evidence amassed that the momentum has evaporated.

Even so, the Romney campaign seemed to believe it could stick with the momentum meme even after that momentum had stalled because it had been effective at rallying the troops.

As The Times' Nate Silver wrote Friday about arguments touting Romney's chances in the election:

"A third argument is that Mr. Romney has the momentum in the polls: whether or not he would win an election today, the argument goes, he is on a favorable trajectory that will allow him to win on Tuesday. This may be the worst of the arguments, in my view. It is contradicted by the evidence, simply put."

Silver averaged the national polls of likely voters in his database and found that "there is not much evidence of 'momentum' toward Mr. Romney. Instead, the case that the polls have moved slightly toward Mr. Obama is stronger."

That's right, it is the Obama campaign that has the rightful claim to having momentum.

3. Hurricane Sandy.

The hurricane devastated the Northeast, which also happens to be the media center of the country. This diverted people's attention from the rancor of the campaign trail, and they saw Obama being presidential in his response to the storm.

They also saw bipartisanship. Obama was embraced by Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, who was the Republican National Convention keynote speaker. He won an endorsement from Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, an independent. For his part, Romney transformed an Ohio rally into a "storm relief event."

4. Truth and lies. Evidence continues to emerge that Romney is one of the most dishonest, duplicitous candidates to ever seek the presidency.

He criticized Obama for telling then-President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia that he would have "more flexibility" to deal with sensitive issues between the two countries after he won re-election.

Romney said this was particularly troubling given that Russia "is without question our No. 1 geopolitical foe."

However, according to a report on Friday in The New York Times, Romney's son Matt recently traveled to Russia and delivered a message to Putin:

"Mr. Romney told a Russian known to be able to deliver messages to Mr. Putin that despite the campaign rhetoric, his father wants good relations if he becomes president, according to a person informed about the conversation."

It sounds as though he was signaling that Mitt would do exactly what he had castigated Obama for: operate with "more flexibility" after the election.

This is the kind of hypocrisy that just makes you shake your head in disbelief.

According to a Gallup poll released on Wednesday, Americans expect Obama to be re-elected by 54 percent to 34 percent. Among those believing that Obama will win were most independents and almost a fifth of Republicans.

I cast my lot with those folks unless there is a seismic shift in the next few days. □



Is New York Prepared For Another?



JOE NOCERA
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One of my enduring childhood memories is going with my mother to the lobby of The Providence Journal, where she had once worked, to see the high water mark of the fearsome 1938 hurricane. It was the worst storm that had ever been recorded in New England, with winds of 115 miles per hour and a storm surge 16 feet high. Parts of Providence were 8 feet under water. Nearly 400 Rhode Islanders died.

Less than 20 years later, Hurricane Carol hit Providence dead-on. With a storm surge of more than 14 feet, it caused 68 deaths; the damage was estimated at \$500 million. At which point, Rhode Island had had enough. In 1960, the state issued \$15 million worth of bonds to pay the Army Corps of Engineers to build the country's first storm barrier, aimed specifically at protecting its capital city.

The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, a complicated array of dikes, gates, barriers and pumps, completed in 1966, has kept hurricanes at bay ever since. That includes Hurricane Sandy, which wreaked havoc on parts of the Rhode Island coastline, but barely dented Providence.

Sandy, of course, didn't let New York City off so easily. Then again, New York didn't put up much resistance. Lower Manhattan, completely unprotected, was overwhelmed by Sandy's 14-foot storm surge. The Rockaways and Staten Island were hit even harder.

That fewer than 50 New Yorkers died in the storm is a testament to what New York has become very good at: evacuating. In 2006, Mayor Michael Bloomberg pushed the city's Office of Emergency Management to develop a worst-case scenario evacuation plan; it has been the game plan ever since. As Sandy approached, the city told residents of the most flood-prone areas to leave, and readied its first responders. Incredibly, a 500-acre coastal neighborhood called Breezy Point in Queens burned to the ground with no one being seriously hurt. Most of them had left.

What New York is not so good at is preventing big storms from exacting an enormous toll on infrastructure, buildings and businesses. In the case of Sandy, the damage to New York City is estimated to be as much as \$50 billion. Cities like London, Amsterdam – and, yes, Providence – have built systems to minimize the damage even Category 3 storms can cause. But not New York.

Part of the reason is that the cost of any such system would run into the billions of dollars. But another reason is that many environmentalists are firmly opposed to a big public-works project, fearing that it would diminish the urgency to tackle the threats posed by climate change. They prefer taking smaller steps, like raising the height of subway grates to keep water out of the subway tunnels. Bloomberg has embraced this approach.

In 2008, for instance, Bloomberg convened a panel of experts to examine the ways climate change could affect the city.

The panel's report, issued in 2010, documented the undeniable fact that the rivers and bays around New York were rising, and that changes in the atmosphere were likely to make storms both more frequent and more dangerous.

Yet Malcolm Bowman, who leads the Storm Surge Research Group at Stony Brook University, told me that when he joined the panel, he was pointedly told that barriers were not going to get much emphasis. Another former member of the panel, Klaus Jacob, a scientist at the Earth Institute at Columbia University, told The New York Times, in a prescient article published just six weeks before Sandy hit, that the city's unwillingness to be more aggressive was akin to "Russian roulette." Jacob believes that the city needs to spend billions building gates to subways, tunnels and infrastructure to prevent water from rushing in. Despite the expense, he says that such a system would save billions by preventing storm damage.

In the aftermath of Sandy, New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, has openly called for rethinking the way New York deals with storms. So far, however, Bloomberg has resisted. "The fact that we are close to the water shouldn't be a surprise to everybody," he sniffed on Thursday.

Barriers may not be the answer. But, clearly, the kind of small steps advocated by the city are almost laughably insufficient. What could be a more pressing short-term threat than horrific storms that can bring the city to its knees? And how can you say you are tackling climate change if you are not willing to face that threat squarely?

Bloomberg is clearly proud of his role as a leader in the climate-change arena. But, in the weeks and months to come, we are going to find out what that really means. □

Gulf clampdown on dissent raising red flags with allies

BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Gulf has been the slow burn of the Arab uprisings.

The fraternity of rulers in the oil-rich region has remained intact with tactics ranging from withering force in Bahrain to arrests of perceived dissenters in the United Arab Emirates. And it's been done without too much serious blowback from their Western allies, which count on the region's reliability as an energy supplier and military partner against Iran.

But that now could be put to the test as Gulf states attempt to muzzle voice of opposition by adopt sweeping measures, such as protest bans and clampdowns on social media.

"The Western governments have taken essentially 'do what it takes' policies with the Gulf regimes," said Christopher Davidson, an expert on Gulf affairs at Britain's Durham University. "That requires a certain level of silence and a practice of looking the other way from the West."

Last week, however, State Department spokesman Mark Toner issued unusually blunt criticism of a decision by Bahrain — a strategically located island country that is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet — to temporarily outlaw all anti-government protests amid rising violence in the nearly 21-month-old uprising against the Western-backed monarchy. Early Sunday, protesters rained homemade firebombs on at least three police stations in yet another sign of the deepening tensions.

Kuwait also could bring further questions from the West over its widening clampdowns on an Islamist-led opposition ahead of Dec. 1 parliamentary elections, including bans on public gatherings of more than 20 people. Protesters, however, have defied the order and on Sunday thousands staged a march in a Kuwait City suburb as security forces countered with tear gas and stun grenades.

The UAE, meanwhile, has angrily challenged a European Parliament resolution

last week that denounced "assaults, repression and intimidation" against rights activists and suspected members of an Islamist group that officials consider a threat to the state. More

that claim they face systematic discrimination.

Across the region, bloggers and social media activists also are facing increasing pressures for violating laws against direct criticism of

no one realistically thinks the West will do anything more than complain."

That's because the likely price would be too high for anything else.

The Gulf states host perhaps the highest concentration of Western military might outside NATO, including about 15,000 U.S. ground forces in Kuwait and air bases dotting the desert down to Oman. The arrangement works for both sides because of a shared concern: Iran. The West gets firepower right at Iran's doorstep and the Gulf leaders have resident protectors.

The West also cannot ignore the rising political ambitions of the Gulf as the wider Middle East is reshaped by the Arab Spring.

Qatar, a leading backer of Libyan rebels last year and now a key supporter of the Syrian rebellion, is hosting a critical meeting this week of Syrian opposition officials. The U.S. hopes to use the gathering to overhaul the anti-Damascus forces into a

Suspected Iranian plots and fears about Islamists emboldened by Arab Spring victories in Egypt and elsewhere.

Authorities in Bahrain - facing nonstop clashes and unrest since February 2011 - have increasingly blamed Shiite power Iran or its proxies for encouraging the protests by the island nation's Shiite majority.

No clear evidence has emerged to back up the claims - and Iran denies any direct role - but it has become a central narrative of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council anchored by regional Sunni power Saudi Arabia.

It's also one that boxes Washington and other Western allies into a corner. The U.S. has urged dialogue in Bahrain, where more than 50 people have died in the unrest. But any clear support for the Shiite-led opposition could seriously disrupt relations with Gulf nations and possibly complicate the future of U.S.



Kuwait Police Special Forces work in Mishref, Kuwait on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. Thousands of protestors marched on the 6th Ring Road Highway protesting a decree by the emir that amends the election law. Kuwait riot police used stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowds. Kuwait could bring further questions from the West over its widening clampdowns on an Islamist-led opposition ahead of Dec. 1 parliamentary elections, including bans on public gatherings of more than 20 people. Protesters, however, have defied the order and on Sunday thousands staged a march in a Kuwait City suburb as security forces countered with tear gas and stun grenades.

(AP Photo/Gustavo Ferrari)



Opposition demonstrators gather in Mishref, Kuwait on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. Thousands of protestors marched on the 6th Ring Road Highway protesting a decree by the emir that amends the election law.

(AP Photo/Gustavo Ferrari)

than 60 people have been detained in the past year in one of the quietest ongoing crackdowns of the Arab Spring, rights groups say. And Saudi Arabia said last month it was "insulted" by a British parliament inquiry into possible Saudi human rights violations and its military assistance to Bahrain's embattled monarchy.

Saudi forces also have waged an ongoing battle against groups from the kingdom's Shiite majority

the sheiks and monarchs that control the Gulf. Last week, a Bahraini man was sentenced to six months in prison after being charged with insulting the king.

"The Gulf is a delicate dance for the West," said Ali al-Ahmed, director of the Washington-based Institute of Gulf Affairs. "The Gulf leaders know they are insulated. There could be rising complaints from Washington or London about various hardline measures, but

new leadership with fewer Syrian exiles and more rebels commanders.

At the same time, Syria's civil war and Iran's nuclear program will be high on the agenda for Gulf stops this week by British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande. Those visits will also be opportunities for Gulf leaders to restate their views on the internal threats.

They fall in two directions:

bases in the region.

In the UAE, the main target is an Islamist group, al-Islah, that authorities worry could try to undermine the control of the ruling clans in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and other emirates.

Al-Islah says it only seeks a wider public voice in the country's affairs - but even that is considered dangerous territory in a nation that allows no political parties and swiftly stamps out any signs of public protests. □